

Ag Data Inputs: Where are We Now?

Agriculture Workgroup

January 20, 2022

Survey of Governance (signatories + at-large)

Two Issues

- Incorporation of Hillandale Layer Population Data into CAST
- BMP Partial Credit Proposal

Why a Survey?

- Both Issues Discussed Substantially in Public Forums
- Opportunity for Review of Material, Consideration & Response
- Gather Questions & Identify Knowledge Gaps

Consensus Continuum



Incorporation of Hillandale Layer Population Data into CAST

Problem: CAST does not account for millions of layers across two PA counties.

- Current population data source: USDA Census of Agriculture
- Challenge: USDA-NASS privacy protection

Action Taken

- Population data acquired from Hillandale
 - QA/QC against CAFO permits & NMPs
 - ~5 million layers
- Review & Analysis of Census of Ag county & state totals
 - Published data underestimates layers (order of magnitude)

Current Status

- Hillandale pop. data can be incorporated in FUTURE VERSION of Phase 6 CAST (as a change product) *with partnership approval*.
- Hillandale & other alt. data can be incorporated in Phase 7 CAST *with partnership approval*.

References

Incorporating Private Industry Data Into CAST – Nov AgWG: [Link](#)
Commercial Agricultural Production Data Decisions – Nov AgWG: [Link](#)

Indicate your current level of approval for incorporating Hillandale layer population data in the CAST 2023 update.

17 Responses

- 7 Endorse
- 3 Agree with Reservations
- 3 Stand Aside
- 3 Hold
- 1 Stop



Please explain your rationale for your response & indicate what would move you further towards endorsement (if not there already)

Summary of Points Made

- Need most complete/accurate data
- Consistent with previous poultry data refinements
- NASS data inaccurate/incomplete
- Industry data critical to success
- Need standard of quality across all types of data (data equity)
- Need to establish acceptable degree of error
- Load impacts not accounted for in WIPs (backward & forward through time)

Next Steps

Ad Hoc Group to Address Questions & Knowledge Gaps

- Why must changes in one county affect far reaches of watershed?
 - Can we change that?
- Standardization of process for industry data
 - QA/QC
 - Addressed duplication & equity
- Standard of quality across all types of data (data equity)
- Shared understanding of available data sets & use
 - Feasibility of incorporating alternative data sets
 - Consideration of data privacy
- Shared understanding of NASS data sets
 - Opportunities and constraints
- Identify other data gaps

Next version of
CAST?



BMP Partial Credit Proposal

Partial Credit Proposal

Problem: Re-verification of “expired BMPs”* is resource intensive

- Multi-year BMPs that have reached established CBP-approved credit duration “drop out” of CAST until re-verified.
- Difficult to impossible to find federally-funded BMPs for re-verification (varies by jurisdiction)

Action Taken

- BMP Verification Ad Hoc Action Team established by the WQGIT: 1st meeting Sept 2020
- Monthly discussions resulted in proposed compromise

Current Status

- The BMPVAHAT will seek consensus on proposed partial credit compromise on February 11

References

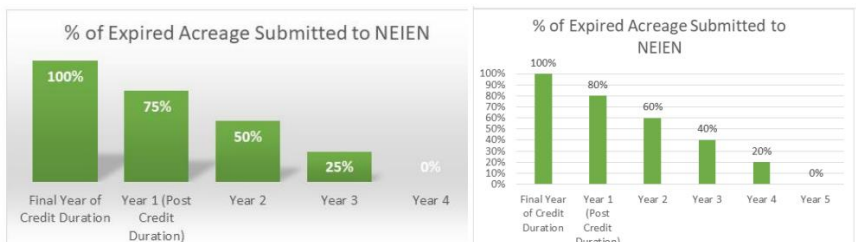
Partial Credit Recommendation: [Link](#)

Partial Credit Presentation: [Link](#)

*BMPs that have exceeded credit life w/o re-verification-typically 10-15 years for the BMPs in question (as approved by the AgWG for Phase 6 CAST development).

THE PROPOSAL

- Building upon the gradual phase out approach:



Indicate your current level of approval for applying the proposed method of partial credit for the indicated agricultural BMPs, starting with the CAST 2023 update.

16 Responses

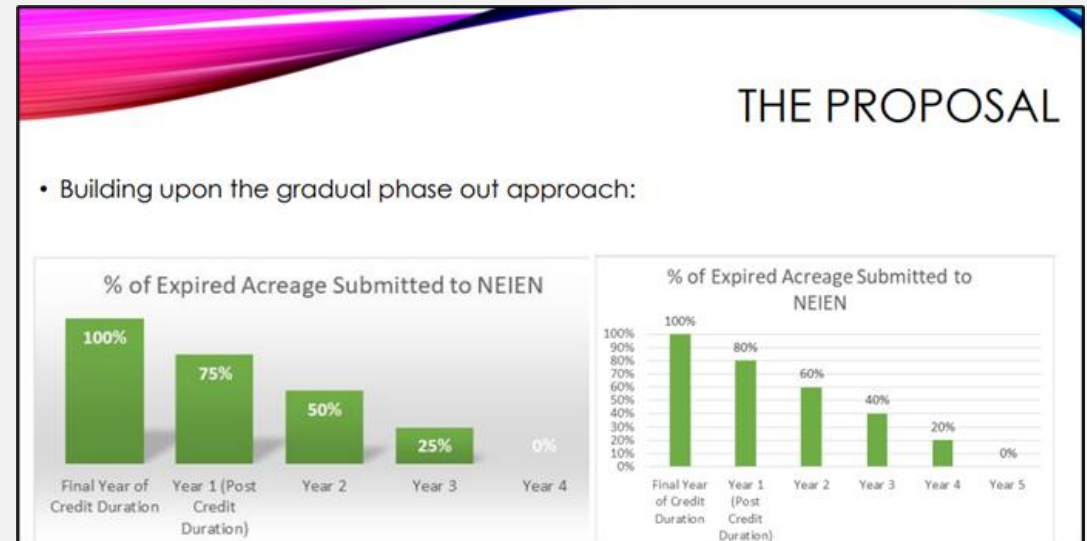
- 5 Endorse
- 5 Agree with Reservations
- 5 Stand Aside
- 0 Hold
- 1 Stop



Please explain your rationale for your response & indicate what would move you further towards endorsement (if not there already)

Summary of Points Made

- Allow for BMP credit while working on verification
- Better than nothing
 - Does not resolve USDA location data challenge
- Ensure farmer are credited for BMP implementation
- Jurisdictions need flexibility
- Partial credit option should sunset...
- Partial credit option should not sunset...
- Adjusting verification & crediting w/o scientific/technical rationale problematic
- How can verification be improved while respecting privacy?
- Better to underestimate BMP functioning than overestimate
- How would this change be communicated to stakeholders?
- More refinement of proposal needed.

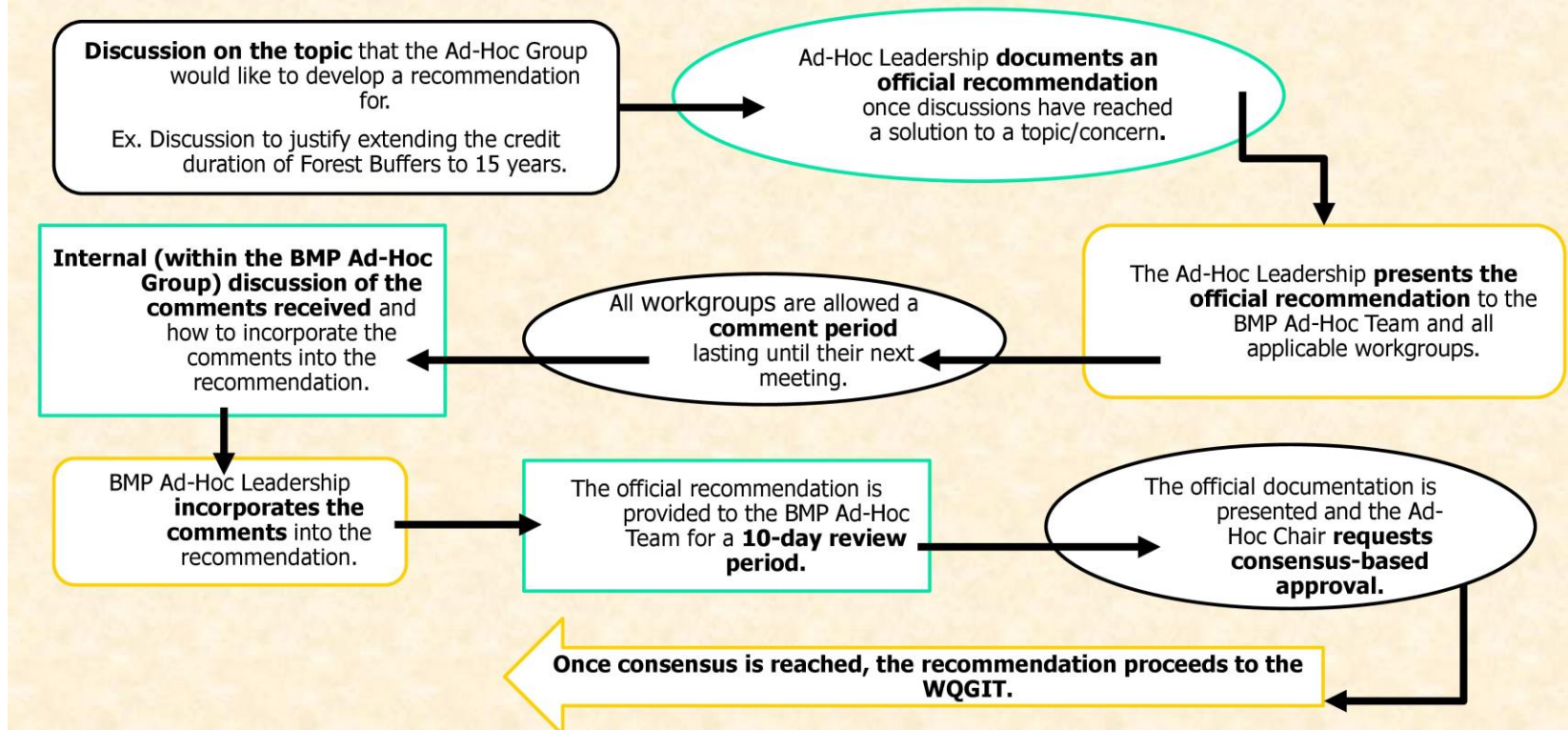


Next Step

BMPVAHAT February 11

Seek consensus on partial credit proposal

THE PROPOSED CHAIN OF APPROVAL (10 Steps with approved recommendations proceeding to the WQGIT)





Jan 24 WQGIT

- Proposed timeline for Phase 7

Feb 3 WTWG

- Animal Mortality Management Technical Appendix

Feb 11 BMPVAHAT

- Seek consensus on partial credit

Feb 14 WQGIT

- CAST 21 data inputs, results & next steps

Feb 17 AgWG

- NRCS/CBP BMP crosswalk
- Incorporating alternative animal data
 - Discuss charge for ad hoc group